

### **In the Claims**

All of the claims standing for examination are reproduced below with appropriate status indication.

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A system for ~~development~~ developing ~~of information systems~~ for health care applications, comprising:

a server coupled to a data repository;

a software ~~operating~~ system executing on the server from a non-transitory machine-readable physical medium, the ~~operating~~ software system comprising:

a foundation services tier (FST) providing ~~functions at least for backup and recovery of the software operating system and its components and for messaging protocol modules with operating system functionalities including resource allocation and scheduling, and modules with middleware functionalities including messaging and~~ knowledge integration;

a domain services tier (DST) ~~communicating with the foundation tier, the domain services tier providing APIs to access and operate on the stored information including at least a Drug Interaction Information store, patient identity management applying a unique identifier for identifying a patient across geographical barriers, using a patient identifier, a hospital identification code, and a unique geographical code, and comprising a~~ workflow software (SW) engine and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for developing healthcare business process applications; and

an application service tier (AST) ~~providing comprising specific healthcare business process applications for at least admission, discharge and transfer operations, and for electronic medical record management developed using the workflow engine and~~ APIs of the DST;

wherein the ~~applications in the application services tier are business processes~~ process applications are implemented as state machines by users interacting with the workflow SW module using services of a workflow engine having specific process states,

and thus having state transitions, triggered by events, all defined by an XML-based configuration mechanism of the workflow engine, changes in state being triggered by events taking place within the operating system, external to the operating system, or by user interaction, and wherein the messaging protocol is triggered by internal events, and provides updates of states between the business processes;

wherein the healthcare business process applications communicate with one another in the AST using a publish-subscribe model provided by a subscription manager, in which messages are published by individual applications without address to any specific destination, and applications subscribe according to interest without regard to any specific source;

wherein all tasks that are to be scheduled are initiated through a scheduler function, with each defined task comprising constraints, and if the constraints cannot be satisfied within a current context, the scheduler notifies a task initiator with a precise indication of the reasons, providing Quality of Service (QoS) guarantees;

wherein each call to an API is routed to a Quality of Service (QoS) subsystem before being executed, and QoS standards are enforced in operation of the API and any healthcare business process application implemented through the API;

wherein, in the AST all entered data is routed through a health care standards subsystem before being accepted as clinical data, this ensuring standards compliance;

wherein user's security authorizations are managed by a Globally-Controlled Locally Managed (GCLM) system in which users are grouped into non-overlapping security domains, each managed by a security domain administrator (SDA), and users are assigned privileges defined by application designers at a lowest level of granularity; and

wherein the healthcare business process applications are developed for a specific healthcare enterprise, and after development are deployed to be executed at the specific enterprise by users who are associated with and granted privileges for that enterprise.

20-25. (Cancelled )

26. (New) The system of claim 19 wherein the healthcare business process applications include applications for admission of a patient to a healthcare facility, discharge of a patient from a health care facility, transfer of a patient within a healthcare facility, billing a patient for services provided,

27. (New) The system of claim 19 wherein the healthcare business process applications include an Integrated Nursing Module (IND) providing users options to view information from various perspectives, including a Nursing Station-wise view, a Doctor-Specialty-wise view, and Ward-wise-view.

28. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein views are limited to pre-authorized users.

29. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein users are provided facility to designate a patient's clinical status to one or more of 'Under IP Care', 'Marked for Discharge', and 'Send for Billing'.